

## THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

*The Summary of the Law is used throughout the year except during Lent when the Commandments are read in full. These can be found on page 269 of Common Worship.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: the first commandment is this: 'hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

*The service continues on page 4.*

## ALTERNATIVE PRAYER OF PENITENCE

**All: Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

*The service continues on page 5.*

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*One of the following prayers may be used.*

**All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*or*

**All: Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*The service continues on page 19.*

## GREETINGS

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognize his presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered:

**All: let us worship him together.**

*or*

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

**All: and also with you.**

## INVITATIONS TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate, let us call to mind our sins.

*or*

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

*or*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather at the Lord's table we must recall the promises and warnings given to us in the Scriptures. Let us therefore examine ourselves and repent of our sins.

*or*

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

## CONFESSIONS

You made us to be one family, yet we have divided humanity. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people, yet we have brought disharmony amongst races. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

You rejoice in our differences, yet we make them a cause of enmity. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**All: Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

*or*

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

*or*

Jesus said: ' Love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.'

*or*

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

*or*

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

## BLESSINGS

The Christ who died for you, live in you. The Christ who loves you, shine through you. The Christ who welcomes you, go with you now and always.

**All: Amen.**

*or*

The source of life go with you as you celebrate all he has given. The pattern of life guide you as you walk in his way. The giver of life sustain you as you offer him your service. The resurrection and the life bless and keep you, now and for all eternity.

**All: Amen.**

*or*

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

*or*

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## DISMISSALS

Let us bless the Lord:

**All: thanks be to God. Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

*or*

The Lord God almighty is our Father:  
**he loves us and tenderly cares for us.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:  
**he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.**

The Lord, the Holy Spirit, is among us:  
**he will lead us in God's holy way.**

To God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
**be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.**

## INVITATIONS TO CONFESSION

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*or*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

## CONFESSION

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**All: Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*or*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

We pray together

**All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

## THE PEACE

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*or*

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## PROPER PREFACES

And now we give you thanks because your Son our Lord was awaited by the prophets, announced by an angel, conceived by a virgin, and proclaimed at last to men and women of every race.

*or*

And now we give you thanks because in his coming the day of our deliverance has dawned; and through him you will make all things new, as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world.

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all, this day and evermore.

**All: Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## GREETING

I bring you good news of great joy: a Saviour has been born.

**All: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

## CONFESSION

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

**All: forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned:

**All: forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned:

**All: forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned:

**All: forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned:

**All: forgive and heal us.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

*On Christmas Eve only*

On this most holy night,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*or at other times*

Holy God

**All: hear our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. His name will be called

**All: Wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

## GREETING

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

**All: The Lord bless you.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

## CONFESSION

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

Lord of glory

**All: hear our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

*or*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

*or*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace.

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks for, by the leading of a star, you have revealed your only Son to the world, that in following him we are led from darkness into his marvellous light.

*or*

And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

## CONFESSION

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

Lord of compassion

**All: hear our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

## PROPER PREFACES

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

*or*

And now we give you thanks because he was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all, this day and evermore.

**All: Amen.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith

## CONFESSION

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

*or*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All: Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All: Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

**All: Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

*or*

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead.

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world is being renewed and humanity is once again made whole.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen. Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*or*

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GREETING

Christ is risen.

**All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Christ has ascended on high.

**All: He reigns for ever. Alleluia.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord. Alleluia.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin. He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us. Through him we approach the throne of grace with confidence, and confess our sins.

## CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption, yet we have forgotten your pain and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life, yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar, and the empty promises of a sinful world. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have ascended to your Father and our Father, your God and our God; plead there at the right hand of God for our forgiveness and entry into the fullness of his presence. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

Loving God, we look to you.

**All: Receive our prayer.**

## THE PEACE

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

*or*

The risen Lord now reigns at God's right hand. He is the Prince of Peace.

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks that, after he had ascended far above all heavens, and was seated at the right hand of your majesty, he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy and life-giving Spirit; that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel might go forth into all the world.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty:

**All: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all.

**All: Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.**

**GREETING**

God is spirit.

**All: Let us worship him in spirit and truth.**

The Lord is with us.

**All: Let us praise his name together.**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**CONFESSION**

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

**All: Amen.**

**INTERCESSION RESPONSE**

Lord, come to bless us

**All: and fill us with your Spirit.**

**THE PEACE**

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

*or*

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

**PROPER PREFACE**

And now we give you thanks because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth, and give us power to proclaim your gospel to the nations, and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created, breathe into you the life he gives.

**All: Amen.**

May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us, make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

**All: Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GREETING

We meet in the name of God:

**All: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit: God is one.**

*or*

We meet in the name of God:

**All: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for idols of our own imagining. As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity, and to worship him in spirit and in truth, let us call to mind our sins.

## CONFESSION

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins: Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit, you give us life and peace: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

**All: Amen.**

## INTERCESSION RESPONSE

Lord, meet us in the silence

**All: and hear our prayers.**

## THE PEACE

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father. Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace. Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

## PROPER PREFACE

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed the glory of your eternal fellowship of love with your Son and with the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendour, yet one God, ever to be worshipped and adored.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

*or*

God the Father, who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son, bless you. God the Son, who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, bless you. God the Holy Spirit, who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts, bless you. The blessing of the one true God, to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity, come down upon you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

We go into the world

**All: to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.**

